DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-0055]

Proposed Information Collection (Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty

Eligibility - Unmarried Surviving Spouses); Comment Request

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), is announcing an opportunity for public comment on the proposed collection of certain information by the agency. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, Federal agencies are required to publish notice in the Federal Register concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed revision of a currently approved collection, and allow 60 days for public comment in response to the notice. This notice solicits comments on information needed to determine surviving spouse of a Veteran eligibility for a VA home loan.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments on the collection of information through Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at www.Regulations.gov or to Nancy J. Kessinger, Veterans Benefits Administration (20M35), Department of Veterans Affairs,

810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420 or e-mail nancy.kessinger@va.gov. Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-0055" in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the FDMS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy J. Kessinger at (202) 632-8924 or fax (202) 632-8925.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA of 1995 (Public Law 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501 – 3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VBA invites comments on: (1) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VBA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VBA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

<u>Title</u>: Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility - Unmarried Surviving Spouses, VA Form 26-1817.

OMB Control Number: 2900-0055.

<u>Type of Review</u>: Revision of a currently approved collection.

<u>Abstract</u>: Unmarried surviving spouse of a Veteran whose death occurred while serving on active duty or was a direct result of service-connected disabilities completes VA Form 26-1817 to request a certificate of eligibility for home loan benefits. VA uses the data collected to verify the Veteran's service-connected death and to determine the applicant's eligibility for home loan benefits.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 1,250 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent: 15 minutes.

<u>Frequency of Response</u>: One time.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000.

DATED: September 24, 2013.

By direction of the Secretary:

Crystal Rennie, VA Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Billing Code 8320-01]

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